



SURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Surry County
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VACo Elects Judy Lyttle President for 2015-2016



The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Surry County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Judy S. Lyttle as 2015-2016 President during their 81st Annual Conference in November, 2015. Mrs. Lyttle becomes the first President of the organization from Surry

County and the third from VACo's Region I since 2009.

"My love for public service has grown stronger over the years because I know I've made a difference" Mrs. Lyttle said. "I love people and I love serving people. When you have that in your heart, you are able to handle anything with a smile."

A Message from the County Administrator

*Wishing all of Surry County's
employees and citizens a*

*Happy and Prosperous
New Year*

In 2016!



Tyrone W. Franklin

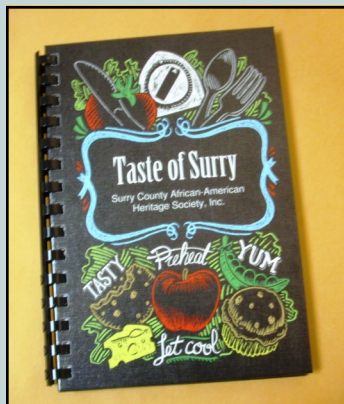
County Employee HR News

Surry County employees recently received a memo from Human Resources detailing changes in annual leave, sick leave and compensatory time accumulation policies.

Effective January 1, 2016, the County will no longer provide employees with direct deposit notices. Access to personal payroll records will be maintained through the E-Stub program. Employees must register online via the link provided on the County website and obtain a PIN to access and print payroll information.

Any questions about payroll or Human Resources issues should be directed to Mrs. Harriet Ruffin, Payroll & HR Benefits Coordinator, in the County Administrator's Office.

Cookbooks for Sale



The Surry County African-American Heritage Society has cookbooks for sale. Sales of the cookbooks support the work of the Society in preserving African-American history in Surry County.

To purchase, please contact Mrs. Louise Diaz-Jenkins at:
djenkins1895@gmail.com.

Surry County Welcome Center



The renovation of the Old Clerk's Building located in the Historic Courthouse Complex has been completed.

*In the coming weeks, furnishings, design elements and staff will be in place with an anticipated **Grand Opening** scheduled in mid-March.*

The Welcome Center is designed to be the "first stop" for visitors to Surry County and beyond, providing them with information, directions and materials to enhance their experience in our area.

Volunteer opportunities are available by contacting the Surry County Administrative Office at (757) 294-5271.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SurryCountyVa>

Chanco on the James Named Best Summer Camp



Congratulations to Chanco on the James Camp and Conference Center for being named Best Summer Camp in the Eastern Region by *Virginia Living Magazine* in November 2015.

Readers of the magazine cast more than 40,000 ballots for their choices in each region of the state and in 475 different categories.

Broadband Project Update

by Rhonda Russell, Director of Planning



Commerce Drive
Communications Tower
under construction

Near the very end of the construction part of the Broadband project, a number of constituents have called or stopped by the office to ask questions about construction status, and costs for service. Additional inquiries by constituents have been for data plans with unlimited bandwidth. The inquiries for specific subscriber information are concerning because they evidence that some do not have a clear understanding of the project's model. To help clarify the model and the proposed implementation plan, a review of the 2009 Surry County Broadband Implementation Plan is provided. The plan was commissioned by the Surry County Board of

Supervisors and funded by the County and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. It provided a model and framework for implementation of the local Broadband program by outlining an approach to address the availability of reasonably priced internet services countywide. The 2009 plan recommended that the County pursue broadband services by connecting either a fiber based or microwave link to a lower cost provider with a presence in an adjacent county. This approach was, and remains standard, in rural areas with a broadband presence, like the southwest part of the State. While this was our plan in 2009, time, relationships and opportunities have changed our implementation plan favorably. Surry County was able to barter, trade and partner with Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities, Incorporated, who had both a presence in the County, and significant fiber network throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. We were able to co-locate our fiber hub with Mid-Atlantic thereby negating the need for the microwave link to connect to an internet service provider in an adjacent community. The County's data can be transported across the County owned network to the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities, Inc. network and to the World Wide Web. The network development costs, just under one million dollars, were undertaken to bring lower cost wholesale

Broadband Project Update (cont'd)

internet services to the County and advance our public safety communication original vision and a direct result of our relationship with Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities, Inc.

Fiber is very costly. That fact, combined with limited population densities, contribute to the reluctance of private fiber based or wireless providers absorbing the costs necessary to offer subscriber services in the County. The cost of fiber, coupled with budgetary realities, is the reason why we embarked upon a phased approach to the Broadband project. The first phase of the project was planned to reach the greatest concentration of business and municipal locations within the County while subsequent phases of the project, envisioned for funding through both local dollars and grant awards, would reach additional end-users.

Because of the limited number of customers connected directly to fiber, the ability to develop an agreement with a wireless provider is the next step and a critical part of the viability of the Broadband Project Implementation Plan. In the next few months, the County will publish a Request For Interest (RFI) seeking wireless internet providers. We are hopeful that one or more respondents will come forward that can offer subscription internet services. The County could negotiate access to the fiber infrastructure and tower, and reduced data transport fees. In return for these concessions, we are hopeful that the County and the wireless provider(s) can contractually agree to lease rates below market in exchange for subscriber subsidies and revenue generation to cover the costs of operation and sustainability of the fiber network and electronics gear.



Sample Co-Location Facility

Staff is frequently asked what data speeds will be available on the network. The current FCC definition of broadband service transmission is a minimum speed of 200 Kbps. This speed is below what is typically offered over wireless (minimum 1 Mbps) and below the capabilities of fiber. The County network is capable of offering speeds of 1Gbps or greater. Surry County is not able to answer questions regarding subscriber costs and bandwidth restrictions. These decisions will be made as part of the business model developed by perspective wireless providers. We can influence these decisions in our lease negotiations and are hopeful that these discussions will be timely, productive and fruitful.

Staff will keep citizens abreast of these discussions as they progress. In the interim, the project's specific milestones include the construction of a 350' communication tower, accessory equipment, and the deployment of 23,300 linear feet, approximately four miles of fiber optic cable, traversing and area commencing along Rolfe Highway/State Route 31, extending along Commerce Drive/Surry Industrial Park and continuing along Rolfe Highway/State Route 31 to the intersection of Rolfe Highway/State Route 31 and Colonial Trail East/State Route 10, thru the Town of Surry, and terminating in the vicinity of 697 Colonial Trail East, the Dollar General store. Additionally, end user terminations were installed for eleven community service facilities and four business entities.

In November 2013, Surry County's fiber network was lit and now offers circuits to its fiber. The network has greater reliability, increased bandwidth, and costs that are significantly lower than a T1(1.Mbps) line, the method two of our community's largest employers used before transferring service to the County network. The local network offers more bandwidth that is dedicated per subscriber, with greater reliability, for less cost. Surry County government operations, the Surry Library, Windsor One and Edwards Ham are now all serviced by the network. The County's wireless network will be facilitated by the fiber based network that will truncate at the tower base. Wireless services are forthcoming and anticipated to be online and offering subscriptions to residential customers in 2016.

Meet our Staff: Commonwealth's Attorney



Derek A. Davis, PLLC

The Commonwealth's Attorney office is responsible for providing Surry County and the Commonwealth of Virginia with legal representation in the prosecution of criminal, traffic and County violations in the Circuit, General District and Juvenile Domestic Relations Courts. Legal advice is provided to all local and state law enforcement agencies investigating matters in the County.

The Commonwealth's Attorney office participates in the Victim/Witness Program administered by the State Department of Criminal Justice Services. The program provides assistance and services to victims of crimes and violence in the County. The grant is fully funded by the State.

The Commonwealth's Attorney is a constitutional officer elected every four years. The office is funded as a part-time office.

Mr. Derek A. Davis, PLLC, was elected to the office of Commonwealth's Attorney in November, 2015 and will begin his service to the community on January 1, 2016.

The Surry Farmers Market

The Surry Farmers Market experienced great success in its first season from May through November of 2015.

Vendor Applications for the 2016 season will be available after February 15, 2016.

Local producers who are interested in becoming vendors can contact the County Administrator's Office at (757) 294-5271 with questions or to request a Vendor Application.



Surry County Administrative Office
45 School Street
P.O. Box 65
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Calendar of Events

January 1 - New Year's Day *

January 15 - Lee-Jackson Day *

January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 15 - President's Day *

March 9 - Dominion Power Siren Test

March 13 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 27 - Easter

* County Offices Closed

Submissions

If you wish to submit news
or corrections,
please provide the information
to the Surry County
Administrative Office
by calling 294-5271.

